

Mineral Industry Surveys

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PRECIOUS METALS IN FEBRUARY 2003

U.S. mines produced 19,800 kilograms (kg) of gold and 92,100 kg of silver in February 2003. Compared with January 2003, production of gold was down 6% in California and production of silver was down 20% in Nevada.

Gold

Domestic. CA three-way merger of Kinross Gold Corp., TVX Gold Inc., and Echo Bay Mines Ltd. was approved by the Ontario Superior Court in Canada. Denver-based Newmont Mining Corp., the world=s largest gold producer, owns 13.8% of the new Kinross, and is its largest shareholder as a result of its prior ownership of shares in Echo Bay and TVX. The new Kinross combination, which has more than 62,000 kg (2 million troy ounces) of gold output per year, created the seventh largest gold producer in the world (American Metal Market, 2003c).

International. CHarmony Gold Mining Co. Ltd. appropriated funds to develop two new gold mines. The first is the Doornkap South Reef gold project, which is expected to produce 1,300 kg (42,000 ounces) of gold by 2006 and rise to 10,300 kg (330,000 ounces) by 2007-08. The mine has an expected life span of 20 years. The second mine is Tshepong North, which is expected to produce 5,200 kg (167,000 ounces) of gold per year for 8 years (Platts Metals Week, 2003a).

Barrick Gold Corp. dismissed its president, who also served as the firm's chief executive officer. A member of Barrick's board of directors was appointed to the vacated positions. Barrick, the world-s third largest gold producer made the leadership change to address concerns about the company's 2002 performance (American Metal Market, 2003a).

India imposed a national 1% gold sales tax that replaced local gold taxes. The local taxes had ranged from 0.3% to 1.5 % (Platts Metals Week, 2003b).

Comex gold futures fell based on a large bullion sale reported by one of its European Central Banks. The Portuguese Central Bank sold 30 metric tons (t) worth \$351.1 million in the week ending February 21, 2003. This sale was in accord with the 1999 Washington Agreement on gold that limited total European annual gold sales to 400 t for 5 years. An estimated 412 t of gold was sold in 2002 by the European Central Bank and its 14 national central banks, which signed the Washington Agreement (American Metal Market, 2003b).

Polyus ZAO, Russia's largest gold producer, negotiated with the government of the Sakha Republic in eastern Russia to develop gold deposits in the region, including the Nezhdaninskoye, Kuranakh, and Kyuchus deposits. However, a conflict about operational control of South Verkhoyansk Mining Company (SVMC), which holds the license to mine Nezhdaninskoye, exists between Celtic Resources Ltd. and Yakut Mining Co., which own a stake in SVMC. Yakut has challenged Celtic, disputing the legality of a 30% block of shares in SVMC that Celtic has claimed as its own. Polyus, which produced 25,000 kg (806,000 ounces) of gold in 2002, was acquired October 2002 by Norilsk Nickel Ltd. The Sakha Republic produced 17,500 kg (564,000 ounces) of gold in 2002 (Platts Metals Week, 2003c).

China reported that it expects to produce 200,000 kg (6.4 million ounces) of gold in 2003. In 2002, China=s gold output was 189,800 kg (6.1 million ounces) (Antaike Precious & Minor Metals Monthly, 2003b).

Silver

On February 20, 2003, Pan American Silver Corp. and Corner Bay Silver Inc. announced that they had completed a merger of the two companies, which had been approved by shareholders in September 2002. The merger combines Pan American's silver production and operational experience with Corner Bay's Alamo Dorado silver-gold deposit. Corner Bay holds a 100% interest, with no royalties, in the deposit. Mineral reserves of the Alamo Dorado deposit (calculated at per-ounce prices of US\$4.60 for silver and US\$300 for gold), including proven reserves, reportedly total 23.36 million metric tons (Mt) of ore grading 71 grams per metric ton (g/t) silver and 0.27 g/t gold.

Probable reserves are reportedly 12.14 Mt of ore grading 60 g/t silver and 0.24 g/t gold. The Alamo Dorado deposit is in the western foothills of the Sierra Madres mountain range and occupies a large ridge-top, making it ideal for low-strip-ratio open-pit mining (Pan American Silver Corp., 2003).

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Commission (MOFTEC) announced that the government will continue to manage the export of 52 commodities, including some so called strategic nonferrous metals, under its export licensing system. About 14 nonferrous metal products, including silver, will require an export quota license. Moreover producers who wish to export platinum metal will also be required to get an export license from MOFTEC (Antaike Precious & Minor Metals Monthly, 2003a).

Platinum-Group Metals

Zimbabwe Platinum Mines (Zimplats) which owns Zimbabwe's Hartley Complex, will complete in 2003 a bankable feasibility study to double its production of PGM by the end of 2005. The plans are based on the potential development of an underground mine below its Ngezi open cast project, aimed at doubling the rate of production at Ngezi to about 12,500 kg of PGM per year by 2005. The introduction of an underground component at Ngezi will increase PGM reserves substantially to about 1.1 million kg with a platinum-to-palladium ratio of about 1.2:1. Zimplats' total resources within

the Hartley Complex are reportedly about 10.3 million kg with an average grade of 4.1 grams per metric ton PGM (Platts Metals Week, 2003d).

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TABLE 1 MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE GOLD AND SILVER IN THE UNITED STATES, BY STATE $1\!/$

(Kilograms)

-				Other	
Gold	Alaska	California	Nevada	States 2/	Total
2002:					
February	W	797	16,600	3,990	21,400
March	W	1,000	18,600	4,430	24,000
April	W	893	20,800	4,150	25,900
May	W	788	18,600	3,680	23,000
June	W	907	20,100	3,510	24,600
July	W	770	19,200	3,640	23,700
August	W	740	17,600	3,190	21,500
September	W	701	21,200	3,840	25,800
October	W	569	20,000	3,780	24,400
November	W	512	19,200	3,460	23,200
December	W	534	22,600	3,370	26,400
January-December p/	W	9,160	231,000	45,300	286,000
2003:					
January	W	555	16,100 r/	3,760 r/	20,400 r/
February	W	519	16,000	3,330	19,800
January-February	W	1,070	32,100	7,080	40,200
				Other	
Silver	Arizona	Idaho	Nevada	States 3/	Total
2002: p/	=				
February	W	W	48,800	78,200	127,000
March	W	W	49,300	89,600	139,000
April	W	W	30,800	83,700	115,000
May	W	W	36,900	88,600	126,000
June	W	W	30,800	84,700	115,000
July	W	W	35,100	78,300	113,000
August	W	W	28,400	79,700	108,000
September	W	W	30,200	78,700	109,000
October	W	W	38,100	86,100	124,000
November	W	W	24,200	81,000	105,000
December	W	W	32,600	81,400	114,000
January-December p/	W	W	424,000	996,000	1,420,000
2003:					
January	W	W	22,500 r/	80,300 r/	103,000 r/
February	W	W	17,900	74,200	92,100
January-February	W	W	40,400	154,000	195,000
-					

 $^{{\}it r/Revised.}\ p/\ Preliminary.\ W\ Withheld\ to\ avoid\ disclosing\ company\ proprietary\ data;\ included\ with\ "Other States."$

 $^{1/\,\}text{Data}$ are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

 $^{2/\,}Includes\,Arizona,\,Colorado,\,Idaho,\,Montana,\,New\,Mexico,\,South\,Carolina,\,South\,Dakota,\,Utah,\,Washington,\,and\,State\,indicated\,by\,symbol\,W.$

^{3/} Includes Alaska, California, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and States indicated by symbol W.

TABLE 2 SELECTED PRECIOUS METAL PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

	Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium
Engelhard Industries:				
2002:				
Low/date	278.62 January 29	4.26 January 31	454.00 February 1	225.00 December 23
High/date	350.54 December 27	5.15 June 4 and July 15	610.00 December 17	439.00 January 3
Average	311.33	4.62	542.56	339.68
2003:				
January:				
Low/date	345.03/2	4.78/14	606.00/3	239.00/2 and 3
High/date	369.78/27	4.94/6 and 24	675.00/31	273.00/23
Average	358.12	4.86	633.09	258.41
February:				
Low/date	345.33/18	4.53/12	669.00/21	245.00/27
High/date	383.40/5	4.92/4	701.00/3 and 4	269.00/4
Average	360.86	4.68	684.47	255.68
Year to date:				
Low/date	345.03 January 2	4.53 February 12	606.00 January 3	239.00 January 2 and 3
High/date	383.40 February 5	4.94 January 6 and 24	701.00 February 3 and 4	273.00 January 23
Average	359.49	4.77	658.78	257.05
Handy and Harman:				
2002, Average	310.13	4.62	XX	XX
2003:				
January	356.91	4.86	XX	XX
February	359.60	4.68	XX	XX
Average year to date	358.25	4.77	XX	XX
London Final: 1/				
2002, Average	309.97	4.60	XX	XX
2003:				
January	356.86	4.81	XX	XX
February	358.97	4.65	XX	XX
Average year to date	357.91	4.73	XX	XX
VV Not applicable				

XX Not applicable.

1/ Silver price reported as "London Spot/US Equiv."

Source: Platts Metals Week.

$\label{eq:table 3} \text{U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD 1/}$

(Kilograms of gold content, unless otherwise specified)

	Ores and	Doré and	Refined	Ash and		Waste and scrap	Metal powder	Gold compounds
Period and country	concentrates 2/	precipitates	bullion 3/	residues	Total 4/	(gross weight)	(gross weight)	(gross weight)
Imports for consumption:	=							
2002:	=							
November	518	4,400	13,700		18,600	1,110	377	1,140
December	81	8,580	9,230		17,900	914	320	2,480
Year	2,720	42,200	172,000		217,000	11,900	10,700	18,100
2003:	_							
January:	=							
Aruba			178		178			
Brazil			1,080		1,080			
Canada		2	8,030		8,030	119	80	
Chile			500		500			
Colombia		3,510	596		4,100	42	1	
Dominican Republic			3		3	608	12	
Germany							1	312 5/
Honduras		465			465		369	
Japan								3,810 5/
Mexico		87	938		1,030	112		
Peru		1,820			1,820	4		
United Kingdom								1,570 5/
Other	2	87	152		241	121	16 5/	
Total	2	5,970	11,500		17,400	1,010	478	5,690
Exports:	=							
2002:	_							
November	_ 44	5,350	24,100		29,400	8,660	526	37,700
December	97	11,400	18,200		29,700	9,320	75	29,500
Year	556	71,700	185,000		257,000	85,800	10,900	417,000
2003:	_							
January:	_							
Armenia			22		22		24	
Canada			836		836	6,520		17,900 5/
Dominican Republic	46				46			442 5/
Germany	61				61	920	1 5/	
Guatemala			16		16	131		
Hong Kong			6		6		11	1,950 5/
Israel								3,250 5/
Japan		3	1		4		1 5/	
Mexico			528		528			147 5/
Peru			391		391			
Switzerland	- 	9,830	7,340		17,200			2,330 5/
Taiwan	- 						1	
United Kingdom	- 		6,520		6,520	9,210	12	
Other	- 	2	75		77	(6/)	(6/)	
Total	107	9,830	15,700		25,700	16,800	49	26,000

⁻⁻ Zero.

^{1/} Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

^{2/} Includes gold content of base metal ores, concentrates, and matte imported for refining.

^{3/} Bullion also moves in both directions between U.S. markets and foreign stocks on deposit in the Federal Reserve Bank. Monetary gold excluded.

^{4/} "Waste and scrap," "Metal powder," and "Gold compounds" not included in "Total."

^{5/} All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

^{6/} Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF SILVER 1/

(Kilograms of silver content, unless otherwise specified)

						Other			Semimanu-	
			Ores			unwrought	Metal	Silver	factured	Waste
			and	Ash and		silver	powder	nitrate	form 3/	and scrap
Period and country	Bullion	Doré	concentrates 2/	residues	Total	(gross weight)				
2002:										
November	289,000	7,540	44,700	4,050	345,000	23,600	1,190		27,500	9,810
December	371,000	681	12,600	5,120	389,000	18,200	2,030		23,500	92,500
Year	4,020,000	16,600	61,000	63,500	4,160,000	263,000	12,100	572	289,000	816,000
2003:										
January:										
Brazil									27,800	9
Canada	135,000 4/	436		1,320	137,000	704			238 4/	6,340
Chile	6,000				6,000					(5/)
Colombia		555		1 4/	556					2
Dominican Republic				12 4/	12					144
France						86			88	
Germany							110 4/		825 4/	61
India						475 4/			1,180 4/	
Italy	150				150	97 4/			57 4/	29
Jamaica										907
Japan							192 4/		368 4/	26
Korea, Republic of									1,560	82
Mexico	185,000	10,200 4	/ 		195,000	10,800	345		524 4/	1,780
Peru	51,100				51,100				2 4/	
Poland									84	
Portugal										8,310
Singapore										185
Taiwan									111	11,200
United Kingdom									157 4/	2,390
Other				966	966				(5/) 4/	63
Total	377,000	11,200		2,300	490,000	12,200	647		33,000	31,500

⁻⁻ Zero.

^{1/} Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

^{2/} Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

^{3/} Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

⁴ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

^{5/} Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 5 U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER 1/

(Kilograms of silver content, unless otherwise specified)

					Other			Semimanu-	
			Ores		unwrought	Metal	Silver	factured	Waste
			and		silver	powder	nitrate	form 3/	and scrap
Period and country	Bullion	Doré	concentrates 2/	Total	(gross weight)				
2002:									
November	26,300	1,500	19,600	47,500	386	51,200	5,250	24,500	239,000
December	280	3,850	19,400	23,600	1,530	48,000	2,310	26,600	234,000
Year	624,000	22,700	230,000	877,000	32,700	360,000	81,200	290,000	2,380,000
2003:									
January:									
Belgium					21	93		193	5,110
Brazil								537	
Canada	1,340	33		1,370	1,050	927	4,820	4,490	44,100
China									19,100
Dominican Republic								155	
France						1,340		786 4	
Germany						713		1,240	3,570
Hong Kong						1,850		970 4	
India						43		15	2,720
Israel								75	
Italy						8,910		121	39,000
Japan					2 4	/ 595		3,700	20,800
Korea, Republic of					27	502		3,150	
Mexico	7,080		39,700 4/	46,800		443	575 4/	1,920 4	·
Netherlands						203		539	
Philippines								243	
Saudi Arabia									9,480
Singapore						74		446 4	·
Spain								1,650	
Sweden								·	25,400
Switzerland		2,490		2,490		98 4/		27	
Taiwan		,				7,030		211	
Thailand					27 4	*		83	
United Kingdom	19,100		123	19,300	11 4			599 4	1,360
Other					72 4			133 4/	
Total	27,600	2,520	39,900	69,900	1,210	31,900	5,390	21,300	171,000

⁻⁻ Zero.

^{1/} Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

^{2/} Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

^{3/} Semimanufactured (including silver plated with gold or platinum) forms of silver.

 $^{4\!/}$ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

 ${\bf TABLE~6}$ U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PLATINUM-GROUP METALS 1/

(Kilograms of metal content)

	Platinum		Other		Platinum							
	grain and	Platinum	unwrought	Platinum,	waste and	Platinum	Unwrought	Palladium,		Unwrought	Unwrought	
Period and country	nuggets	sponge	platinum	other	scrap	coins	palladium	other	Iridium 2/	osmium	ruthenium	Rhodium 3/
2002:	_											
November	163	3,910	428	376	463	(4/)	14,000	1,840	25		352	600
December	228	5,310	467	250	1,410	4	7,860	3,830	123		753	1,080
Year	1,910	72,600	3,490	4,950	77,500	20	94,600	22,000	2,100	36	9,890	8,630
2003:	_ '-											
January:	_											
Argentina			20									
Belgium		118					134	101				9
Canada	2		1	35	150							
China		2										(4/)
Colombia			38									
Denmark			1									
France				23				1				
Germany		445	72	198	17		194 5/	476 5/	5		31	12
Greece					7							
Israel			55									
Italy				111				31				(4/)
Japan		63	31		4		131	94 5/				25 5/
Mexico					7							
Netherlands				(4/)	2							
Norway		16					512					8
Philippines				1	1							
Russia		266					1,210	397				34
Saudi Arabia					861							
Singapore				(4/)								1
South Africa	124	4,830		23			1,290	254	41		568	674
Switzerland			7	6			64	198				
United Kingdom		1,580	1	11	5,050		125	496	48 5	5/ 1		83
Total	126	7,320	226	408	6,100		3,660	2,050	94	1	599	846

⁻⁻ Zero.

^{1/} Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

^{2/} Unwrought and other forms of iridium.

^{3/} Unwrought and other forms of rhodium.

^{4/} Less than 1/2 unit.

^{5/} All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

${\bf TABLE~7} \\ {\bf U.S.~EXPORTS~OF~PLATINUM-GROUP~METALS~1/}$

(Kilograms of metal content, unless otherwise specified)

			Platinum waste and	Iridium, osmium, and	
Period and country	Palladium 2/	Platinum 2/	scrap	ruthenium 2/3/	Rhodium 2/
2002: November	1,550	1,550	1,530	112	53
December			1,970	147	5
Year	3,430	1,760		1,990	349
2003:	42,700	27,800	17,700	1,990	349
	=				
January:	= 1				(40.5)
Argentina	- 8	3			(4/) 5/
Australia Brazil	_				
	- 1	110	225		(40.5/
Canada	_ 111	217	235		(4/) 5/
Chile		227			
China	_ 10 5/	7			8
Costa Rica	2 5/				
Cyprus	_ 			(4/)	
Denmark	 -	1			
Dominican Republic	_ 1				
Finland		(4/)			
France	_ 27	8		(4/)	
Germany	875 5/	325	347	2	13 5/
Hong Kong	_ 5	37			50 5/
Iceland	_ (4/)				
India	_ 4 5/				
Ireland	_ 28 5/	109		2	4 5/
Israel		1			
Italy	_ 11 5/	(4/)			
Japan	_ 210	154			3 5/
Korea, Republic of	_ 5	1			
Liechtenstein	_ 1				
Macao	_ 4				
Malaysia		5			
Mexico	(4/)	1 5/		(4/)	(4/) 5/
Netherlands	_ 94 5/	5			
New Zealand	_ 1 5/	7			
Norway	_ 7				
Peru		1			
Philippines		(4/)			
Poland	_ 	1			
Singapore	_ 2	1			(4/) 5/
Slovakia	11				
Slovenia	1				
Spain	8	(4/)			
Sweden	2 5/	1			
Switzerland	79	126		1	
Taiwan	167 5/	8			
Thailand	4	4			
Turkey	(4/)				
United Arab Emirates	1				(4/) 5/
United Kingdom	148 5/	141	1,530	52	18 5/
Total	1,830	1,500	2,110	58	95

⁻⁻ Zero.

 $^{1/\,\}text{Data}$ are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

^{2/} Unwrought and other forms.

^{3/} Gross weight.

 $^{4/\} Less$ than 1/2 unit.

 $^{5\!/}$ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.